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—Letters to the Editor—

Cablevision's View of Tv Issue

I have been following carefully your editorials and letters to the editor regarding our cable tv coverage problems. I hope this will clear up our position in the matter.

First, Jefferson Cable operates under the jurisdiction and rules of the Federal Communications Commission. Where these apply, their authority supersedes what we may desire to do, what City Council may want us to do — and evidently, the desires of most of our tv cable subscribers.

Second, under such Federal Communications Commission jurisdiction and rules, we are required to carry Wvir, Charlottesville, on the cable. We also are required to protect Wvir carriage of NBC network programs. This means that we must cut off other NBC network stations when they carry the same NBC programs as Wvir, and replace them with Wvir's signal.

Third, we at Jefferson Cable did not and do not want to carry and "non-duplicate" Wvir on our cable system. We agree with the position taken by both the newspaper and the public. We do not believe such carriage of Wvir is in the public interest in the City of Waynesboro. Such carriage has cost us many problems and thousands of dollars in equipment and labor, and legal fees. We took the case of non-duplication before the Federal Communications Commission several years ago. We lost our plea for relief from this regulation.

What can be done? We don't have an immediate answer. If we remove Wvir from the cable system or fail to give them program protection, the Federal Communications Commission has the power to close down our system within 30 days. Perhaps a massive petition to the Federal Communications Commission or Station Wvir may bring some action. (If Wvir withdraws its request for coverage, the Federal Communications Commission will release us from this requirement).

Our major hope is that public protest from all over the nation to such rules will cause a change at the Federal Communications Commission. As in Waynesboro, the protest is growing.

Robert A. Monroe,
President,
Jefferson Cable Corp.,
Charlottesville.